

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



EDWIN M. LEE
MAYOR

December 19, 2011

Members, Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Supervisors:

This letter communicates my veto of the ordinance pending in File Number 110966, finally passed by the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2011. This ordinance proposes to amend the Park Code to require the Recreation & Park Department to enter into exclusive negotiations with the National Park Service pertaining to City-owned property at Sharp Park.

The Recreation and Park Department is presently conducting environmental analysis of a project at Sharp Park that would restore 19 acres of habitat. The Department has also been in discussions with the County of San Mateo for some time now to create a mutually beneficial partnership for the long-term management of the golf course that could help fund the needed habitat restoration, and continue to support an affordable and popular recreational activity.

The ordinance that I am vetoing would bring these productive discussions to a halt, and instead compel the Department to begin dialogue anew with the National Park Service about closing the golf course at Sharp Park. I believe in striving for equilibrium between environmental and recreational needs. The implicit aim of this legislation – cutting off talks with San Mateo County and envisioning the end of golf operations at Sharp Park – is not a balanced approach. Furthermore, the City could voluntarily choose at any time to enter into the type of discussion envisioned by this legislation, further making this ordinance unnecessary.

After lengthy discussions with Congresswoman Jackie Speier, it is clear to me that the Federal government cannot prioritize habitat restoration and recreational development at Sharp Park, and the National Park Service does not have the resources necessary to rehabilitate the natural areas and golf facilities.

San Mateo County officials, however, are ready and willing to partner with us to implement an environmentally responsible approach to species and habitat protection, all while keeping Sharp Park available to a variety of recreational users.

This ordinance explicitly prohibits San Francisco from entering into an agreement with San Mateo County, no matter how robust the environmental benefits of such an arrangement may be. For this reason, I am returning this legislation with a veto and encouraging the Board of Supervisors to support a balanced approach to Sharp Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edwin M. Lee".

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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